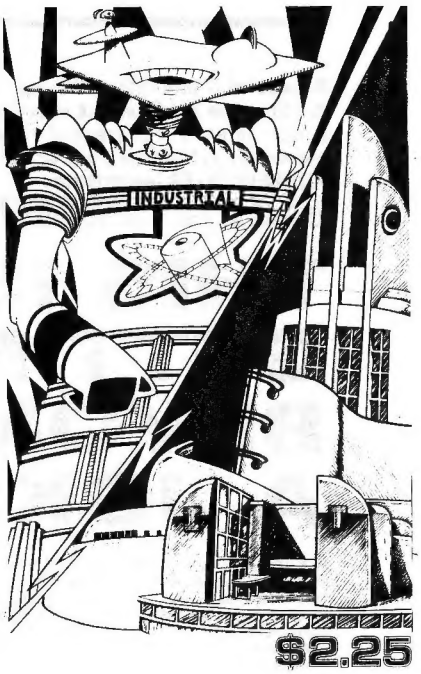
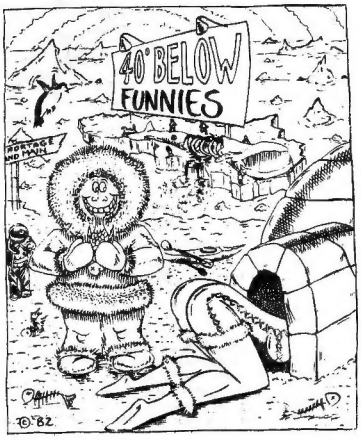
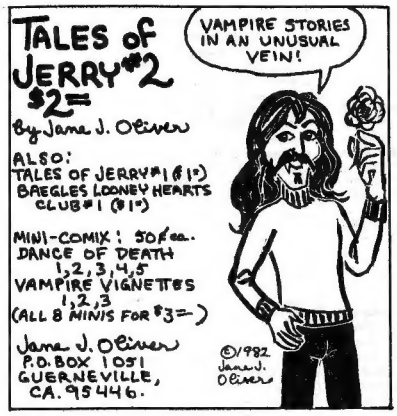
COMIX WORLD 206. October 1, 1982. © Clay Geerdes, Box 7081, Berkeley, CA 94707. All Rights Reserved. Logo by Terry Boyce, whose latest work appears in WEIRDO 6 (out this month--review next issue).* A sub to COMIX WORLD is $11 for two years.* I am interested in hearing reactions about the recently published UG AND NEWAVE PRICE GUIDE. I'll run various comments in a future issue of CW. The book is available at comic stores (and through Crown book outlets). Prices listed are not as inflated as many of us anticipated; actually, some of the quotes are much lower. I don't know of any Plymell ZAPS that will sell for $140. Aside from the type-size (too small), the book is well produced. Nice color section of all the major ugs. Good photo screens. As a reference book, it's first-rate. Now you can look up a book or an artist and find all what's what with little strain. Jay Kennedy has done a fine research job.* Sandy Cutler's collection is up for sale. He wants to sell it all to someone who will come and deal with him personally. You can contact him at 132 Pine Hill Avenue, Johnston, Rhode Island 02919.* PAPER CUTS is slightly late, but Anthony Smith assures me it will be out very soon. It will be $2.50 pp from him, 1414 Lynnview Dr., Houston, TX 77055. He intends selling some of his extensive ug collection to finance subsequent issues.* WHATEVER HAPPENED TO TIMOTHY LEARY? is a book by John Bryan that you might not see in your local bookstore. Cover is a panel by the late Willy Murphy. You can order a copy directly from John Bryan, 495 Ellis Street, No. 237, San Francisco, CA 94102.* Ron Turner is cartoon editor for John Bryan's new paper APPEAL TO REASON. Issues #3 and 5 have full-size Crumb stories as centerfolds. These are the first printings of stories that later appear in WEIRDO. The issues are available from me for $1.75 pp. Mailed first-class in a manila envelope.* Jamie Alder, recently moved to California, has three new pubs--TALES TOO TOUGH FOR T-V 4 is $75¢/stamp; INDUSTRIAL TOILET PAPER 1 is $2.25/.54 post, and #2 is $1.50/.37 post. Art by Alder, Foster, Miller, Valentino, Mike Hill, et al. From Jamie at 800 Adams, #25, Davis, CA 95616.* The newest editions to the COMIX WORLD MINI-SERIES are: WEIRD NUN (edited by Jim Ryan), LITTLE BOOK OF BIG TITS 4 (me and R. C. Harvey), COMIC STRIP (Harvey), HOW TO DRAW A WONDER GIRL (how to do it by R. C. Harvey), STONER MAN 5 (Parsonavich), DANCE OF DEATH 5 (Jane Oliver and Dave Miller) DICKHEAD 1 (funny sex by Clark Dissmeyer and Par Holman), SLEAZY HORROR 4 (Fiorilla et al), and WORK FORCE 2 (Howard).



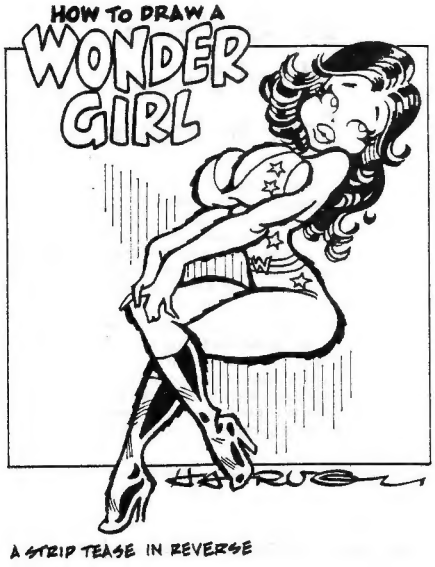


COMIX WORLD minis are 50¢/stamp from CW; $5 a dozen; $35 a hundred.* 40' BELOW is 75¢/stamp from Free Kluck, Box 177, STA F, Wpg, Man., Canada. Ask for the catalog.* Kenny Moran has LIL ELZONIAN 1 & 2 in a single mini for 50¢/stamp. 2168 Sherbrook St., Wpg, Man, Canada R3C 2B6.* ACTION ARCHITECT 1 is 50¢/stamp from Matt Feazell, 2886 James Ave S, #202, Minn. MN 55408.* Jim Ryan has an 8-pager, DILATION and DOPPELGANGER ($1 for both from him at 102 S. Lake Ave., Albany, NY 12208.* HALLOWE'EN #2 is 50¢/stamp from Michael Roden, 611 Garfield, Milford, OH 45150 GET INTO NEWAVE NOW.



STEP RIGHT UP, LITTLE LADY! HIT THE DUCKS AND WIN A PRIZE!
WHAT DO I WIN IF I HIT THE HORSE?
A FOOL AND HIS WISHES ARE NOT PARTED, DIABLO!
INDEED, FOOLS RUSH IN, DIEGO!
SHOOT TO KILL!
FUN!

CAPTAIN SAUCER is the hero of a 20-page newave zine drawn by Doug Holverson. The first are still available from him for 75¢/.71 postage. ea. RR 1, Soldier, IA 51572. Doug has also done a mini-comic, FEAR OF WOMEN. It's a dime and a stamp.* Phil Yeh's latest is THE MAGIC GUMBALL MACHINE & CO. $7.95 from Fragments West, 3908 E. 4th St., Long Beach, CA 90814.* BABYFAT 27 and PAGAN COMIX 1 you get for 50¢/stamp each from CW. Yes, there was a BABYFAT 23 and it was a solo by Wayne Gibson. BABYFAT is still open to cartoons about anything from anyone. 5x7" artwork. stat preferred. I need some weird items for FRIED BRAINS 7 and BABYFAT 28.* Dave Sim, creator of CEREBUS THE AARDVARK will be in Berkeley Thursday, October 21, 1982; he'll do a signing at Comics & Comix that afternoon. The latest CEREBUS is #41 and the back-up story features Arn Saba's NELL THE HORSE, an old favorite I haven't seen around for awhile. That's Nell just above Harv's WONDER GIRL.* Ron Turner says the Bodē book, JUNKWAFFEL 5 is due in print this week. Also on that run will be a movie tie-in comic book drawn by Kim Deitch. Details next issue.* Jerry 2 out this month. See Jane's ad above. Stay high. C.G.



A STRIP TEASE IN REVERSE

Recent raids throughout the country have seen the Obscene Publications squad pushing deeper into the grey areas of underground comix, drugs literature and soft porn. ANDREW TYLER investigates . . .

BRITAIN'S CREEPING CENSORSHIP

THIS IS GETTING BEYOND A JOKE

SHE'S SEEN ME THROUGH SOME ROUGH TIMES. SHIRLEY'S A TRUE SAINT.
THE LORD HAS BLESSED US WITH A LARGE AND LOVING FAMILY.
TWO OF MY GIRLS ARE STUDYING TO BE FOREIGN MISSIONARIES.
WHAT STARTED ME OFF TODAY WAS SEEING THIS ARTICLE ABOUT EVAN IN THE MORNING PAPER. IT SEEMS HE LEFT HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER SOME YEARS BACK.
NOW HE'S PUBLISHING COMIC STRIPS ABOUT 'GAY LIBERATION'...
Changing
YES, THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL IT!
Crust
THEY PRINTED HIS PHOTOGRAPH AT THE TOP. HE'S AS HANDSOME AS EVER.
ys 'Liberate
mic Strips!'
HOW DID THE DEVIL EVER GET HOLD OF SUCH A FINE YOUNG MAN?
MY YOUNGEST SON TOM REMINDS ME OF EVAN SOMETIMES. HE'S SPUNKY... CREATIVE... SHOWS SOME DEFINITE DRAWING TALENT...
IF HE EVER TOLD ME HE WAS A QUEER, I... I THINK I'D...
MORNIN' DAD!
OH, LORD — FORGIVE ME FOR THESE THOUGHTS...THESE THOUGHTS...
the end...

Is this what they want to stamp out? From the Jerry Mack strip by Howard Cruse in Gay Comix No. 2 — part of £10,000 worth of material raided from Knockabout Comix

IN A RECENT article, author Michael Moorcock called it "the erosion of liberty". Under Thatcherism, he complained, and particularly in the midst of post-Falklands fever, "strongly authoritarian and conservative elements in our society" are at last being given the long leash they crave and are going to work on easy UK targets — "chiefly black youth but, in general, the area of so-called victimless crime".

The particular affront he highlighted was the prosecution of his own Manchester publishers, Dave Britton and Michael Butterworth.

Having suffered 40 to 50 raids in less than ten years, usually resulting in the destruction of seized material but never a charge, the pair were finally driven to temporary liquidation last year.

The most massive and co-ordinated assault came in October 1980 when two of Britton's shops, plus the offices of his publishing firm — jointly run with Butterworth — were raided. This time Britton came to trial under the Obscene Publications Act. The charge, which took 19 months to reach court, was storing and selling materials likely to deprave and corrupt.

A jury found him guilty. He served almost three weeks of a 28-day sentence before emerging, as Moorcock put it, shorn of hair, one and a half stones lighter and "in a very shaken condition".

His partner Butterworth is also due to come to trial, possibly before magistrates. He believes, perhaps optimistically, that he will receive something less than jail.

The campaign against Britton and Butterworth worries Moorcock not only because his own bread and butter is threatened but because these were not hardcore Soho spivs but publishers and sellers in the almost reputable underground tradition. They published original works of some merit (Heathcote Williams, Paul Abelman, William Burroughs, Harlan Ellison) and generally dealt in radical literature, periodicals, general fiction, SF, American comics, posters, records, badges and similar paraphernalia. They also sold soft core porn, without which the business would have long ago gone down the pan.

Britton and Butterworth became a target for establishment headbutts soon after James Anderton, Manchester's zealous chief constable, come on the job in 1976.

Anderton would have noted that Britton's Orbit Books and then Books Chain Ltd were hangouts for numerous unorthodox youth — or, in the estimation of Butterworth, "the shops were at the very front of whatever street level rock wave was happening".

Butterworth joins Moorcock in sensing "an erosion into personal choice areas. Before," he says, "it was hardcore. Now it's the criminalising of soft core and from there it could go into books or films of literary merit."

In Moorcock's piece, printed in the August 6 issue of *Time Out* (it was done ostensibly for the *Guardian* but they backed out due, he suspects, to a case of jitters), he asked:

"How long will it be before the excellent political bookshop Grass Roots, a stone's throw from Britton's premises, finds itself threatened? This shop carries a large stock of lesbian and homosexual fiction and non-fiction."

The answer was — not very long. Grass Roots, we learn, *has* been raided and deprived of its drug-related books: how to spot, grow, produce, and the dangers and pleasures therein involved.

Britton himself has been raided yet again. One of his shops was liberated of its 'girlie' magazines the very morning he was released from Strangeways. Some of this stock has been returned. Most has been destroyed. The usual pattern.

IT IS accumulative events of this sort that have drained the business of its sap. Now other publishers and distributors of a similar caste might well begin to wonder whether they too are ready to feel the stick.

On July 13 half a dozen members of London's Obscene Publications squad launched themselves upon the Kensal Road offices and warehouse of Knockabout Comics / Hassle Free Press, a business run by Tony Bennett (no relation) and his wife Carol.

The pair turn a living largely on their possession of the UK licensing rights to Gilbert Shelton's *Furry Freak Bros* and *Fat Freddy's Cat* comic strips which survive, and nicely, from the '60s.

The Bennetts also publish their own titles — again mostly comics — and import and distribute direct to 200 stores more comic and book material centring largely on sex, drugs, paranoia and social criticism.

In younger fanzine circles the Bennetts are not infrequently held to be contemptible old hippie buffoons. Yet they remain the only major comic house in the country and offer work to numerous young artists.

The July 13 raid took them utterly by surprise. (They later discovered that the other half of the Obscene squad were simultaneously raiding the Islington headquarters of Airlift Books from whom they took drug-related titles.)

There was a worker called Dave in the Kensal Road Knockabout premises when the Obscene detachment called. Dave reports thet he'd just arrived back at the office "when these geezers were walking up the stairs, obviously pigs. They pulled out a card and said, 'Scotland Yard Obscene Publications'. Then we waited around for the warrant to arrive and having phoned our solicitor let them get on with it."

The whole affair, he says, was not in the Gestapo stamping booty style but done with extreme English politeness; an overpowering, disorientating mode that somehow belied the fact that their 'visitors' were removing thousand of copies of more than 100 titles worth about £10,000.

BENNETT BEGAN in business in 1966. He says he can't ever remember a raid of this magnitude "on a bookshop or outlet selling drug related or seditious material or whatever".

He suspects that behind the episode is either a Home Office directive ordering a tightening up or, perhaps, machinations by a right wing MP "with a certain amount of influence". He has someone in mind but is fearful of mentioning his name. The water is that cold.

Superintendent Kruger of the Obscene Publications squad confirms for us that the spur "certainly came from that level", but more than that he was not permitted to say. Papers relating to both Airlift and Knockabout are now before the Director of Public Prosecutions. It is his decision how the affair will proceed.

"If they decide to prosecute," says Bennett, "they'll probably go for a forfeiture in front of magistrates. (This carries no penalty other than the loss of the 'offensive' material.) Another option is a Section 2 indictment under the Obscene Act, which is a jury trial — which we would like because there you've got the 12 people who are loath to convict anybody on what you should or should not read. It's much harder to convince a magistrate that books are OK."

A third DPP alternative is a common law charge in the area of corruption of public morals — but Bennett's prediction is that "we'll get them all back and it'll just be a pain in the arse and we'll then try to sue the police for loss of business."

He fears, however, there could be more vexatious raids. Their intention, he says, "would be to try and stop us doing it, to frighten us off. I think the Obscene Publication squad themselves have no interest one way or the other but there are people who think this sort of thing is eroding the fabric of society or whatever.

"Our impression is that the climate is getting tougher. Where Mary Whitehouse was sort of a lone figure with the Festival of Light, there's a whole lot more people now offering support."

The tendency, typically, is more pronounced in America where, under Reaganism, the Furry Freaks as well as more substantial works have been banned in certain States. Libraries are being forced to curb their intake and in Texas they are having formal book burnings. The situation has so alarmed the Authors' Guild they have called a special congress.

"The British would be a bit more reserved," says Bennett, "but I think the same thing is happening here. We weren't particularly worried about it before the bust but now it falls into place."

THE REALLY worrying aspect, he says, is the arbitrariness. The police, the courts, Customs, all have their own understandings, and none are fixed.

Publishers and booksellers can have material prosecuted on the basis of title alone. Those who bring charges can refuse to read the material if they think it might tend to deprave and corrupt them.

"In this way they have brought to court a title called *Fun In Bed*, which turned out to be a book of games for sick children, and another called *Rape Around Our Coast*, which was about soil erosion . . . and made themselves look very silly, I imagine."

There was also, he claims, a directive circulated by Customs to all officers in all ports saying: even though *Inside Linda Lovelace* has been acquitted in court, it doesn't mean we shouldn't stop it coming into the country.

Bennett has already written to Customs asking whether he might be permitted to bring in a particular title. The answer was "we don't know: try and see". He has contemplated writing to the Obscene branch asking for directions on drug-related books but knows the answer will be the same.

The limits shift according to inconstant public tastes or, more particularly, to the tastes of powerful cliques within the ruling circle.

Bennett, Britton, Butterworth, Airlift, Grass Roots, Anti Nowhere League (whose 'So What' B-side is being prosecuted on September 13 before Bromley magistrates) won't get a clear answer because that would let them off the hook.

As Moorcock told us: "I feel threatened as an individual; in terms of Thatcherism and Falklands glory and all that. I'm not paranoid. I just feel that what was achieved in the '60s in terms of liberalisation, which was basically fuck-all anyway, is coming to be eroded."

He insists the time for complacency is over. Lawyers must wake up to back-door censorship and biased interpretation of law. And the public must wake up to the implications of the new crop of prosecutions.

Hunt Emerson

THANKS TO DAVID NOON FOR THESE CLIPPINGS RE NEO-BLUENOSISM. C. G.

The Guardian, Thursday August 12 1982

Bill Outlawing 'Head Shops' Sent to Brown

Sent to the governor was a long-fought bill to abolish the so-called head shops that prospered with the recreational drug explosion of the 1960s and '70s. Final passage came on a 31-to-0 Senate vote. If signed by Brown, it would take effect next year.

Sponsors, mainly parents, police and prosecutors, said that the counter-culture stores mocked anti-drug laws and gave impressionable youngsters reason to doubt the government was serious in its efforts to discourage drug use and possession.

SIGNS AROUND BERKELEY SAY DEC 31, 1982, BUT 'HEAD SHOPS' ONLY CEASING TO SELL DOPE PARAPHENALIA.

MP lashes drugs and sex kids comic strip

KINGSTON MP Norman Lamont has lashed out at a 'disgusting' new children's comic.

The Industry Minister has complained to the Home Office after he heard the 85 pence comic, 'The Collected Adventures of the Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers', was on sale to youngsters in the borough.

The strip cartoon comic, apparently American in origin and published by an obscure, Soho-based group called Hassle Free Press, features tales of drug abuse, sex and violence.

One of the strips tells the tale of Little Orphan Amphetamine, a 14 year-old runaway who is raped by a gang of San Francisco drug pushers.

Mr Lamont, who earlier this year complained about the 'Penguin Book of Political Crimes' which features a guide on how to make petrol bombs and grenades for use in riot situations, is furious that the comic is freely available to Kingston teenagers.

He said: 'Having looked at the magazine myself I was horrified at the contents and can quite understand my constituents' concern.'

'I am deeply disturbed that magazines of this sort should be freely available to children and teenagers.'

'I have drawn this particular publication to the attention of Home Office Ministers and hope that steps will be taken immediately to withdraw it from the market.'